**Press release**

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*BioQED consortium (*[*www.bio-qed.eu*](http://www.bio-qed.eu)*)*

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**BioQED project welcomes two new partners: Itaconix and Van Loon Chemical Innovations (VLCI)**

**New partners Itaconix and VLCI are involved in the development of latex polymers from alkyl itaconates and other formulations derived from 1st and 2nd generation feedstocks made available within the consortium.**

Opening new industrial routes for the production of important chemicals (1,4-butanediol and itaconic acid) from renewable sources rather than traditional petrochemical sources: this, in summary, is the aim of the BIO-QED project, that now gets extra backing from:

**Itaconix:**

The Itaconix Corporation is the world leader in polymers from itaconic acid. The company produces produce polymers that achieve three essential objectives — safety, performance, and sustainability. Combining the versatile chemistry of itaconic acid with its breakthrough economics, Itaconix has rapidly advanced through well-staged development of our proprietary, commercially-proven technology to build a deep pipeline of polymers that compete on unique functionality and cost advantages in home care, personal care, industrial, geotechnical, agricultural, and surface coating applications. Itaconix’ polymers are used in a growing number of consumer and industrial products to reduce cost, improve performance, and reduce impact on the environment. Itaconix makes polymers for better living. In BioQED new latex polymers from alkyl itaconates will be developed.

**VLCI:**

Van Loon Chemical Innovations (VLCI) provides boosting R&D services to the formulation industry, like paint & coatings, personal/beauty care, household and polymers. A creative company, performing innovative R&D services with a practical approach since 2008. VLCI is the unique formulation centre which combines applied formulation science with High Throughput (HT) screening on project basis. By combining broad knowledge/experience and HT, VLCI can generate new and improved products in a shorter time for their worldwide customers.

VLCI contributes to BioQED by performing the synthesis (polymers and modifications) via HT with Itaconic acid which can lead to existing and novel raw materials like rheology modifiers, surfactants/dispersants, humectants, coalescents and binders for coatings, adhesives and personal care. With these raw materials, the formulations can be prepared as well via HT, which then can be tested on performance (manual or via HT later on). Several guide formulations are available, and specific modifications and formulations will be made for fulfilling partners’ requirements and increase their potential business. These guide formulations can also be used as a quality check during the various up-scale steps. The performance testing results (like on rheology, barrier, etc.) can then be used to adjust the processing, modify itaconic acid synthesis or the formulations.

**About the BioQED project:**

Involving 12 partners from 7 countries (Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Croatia, the US and Spain), the project, coordinated by Novamont, was officially launched on 1 January 2014 and will last for 4 years. The other consortium members are Fraunhofer IGB, nova-Institut, Cargill, Lubrizol, Rina, VLCI, Itaconix, TNO, Miplast, Patentopolis and Mater-Biotech.

The consortium is based on strong industrial leadership on both of the selected products and covers the full supply chains for bio-based BDO and IA. After 30 months of spirited and dedicated work of the consortium, the BioQED project can boast with several significant advances. The partners are working all together in order to guide these 2 important bio-based chemical building blocks through the notorious “Innovation Valley of Death” to industrial deployment. [www.bio-qed.eu](http://www.bio-qed.eu/)

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